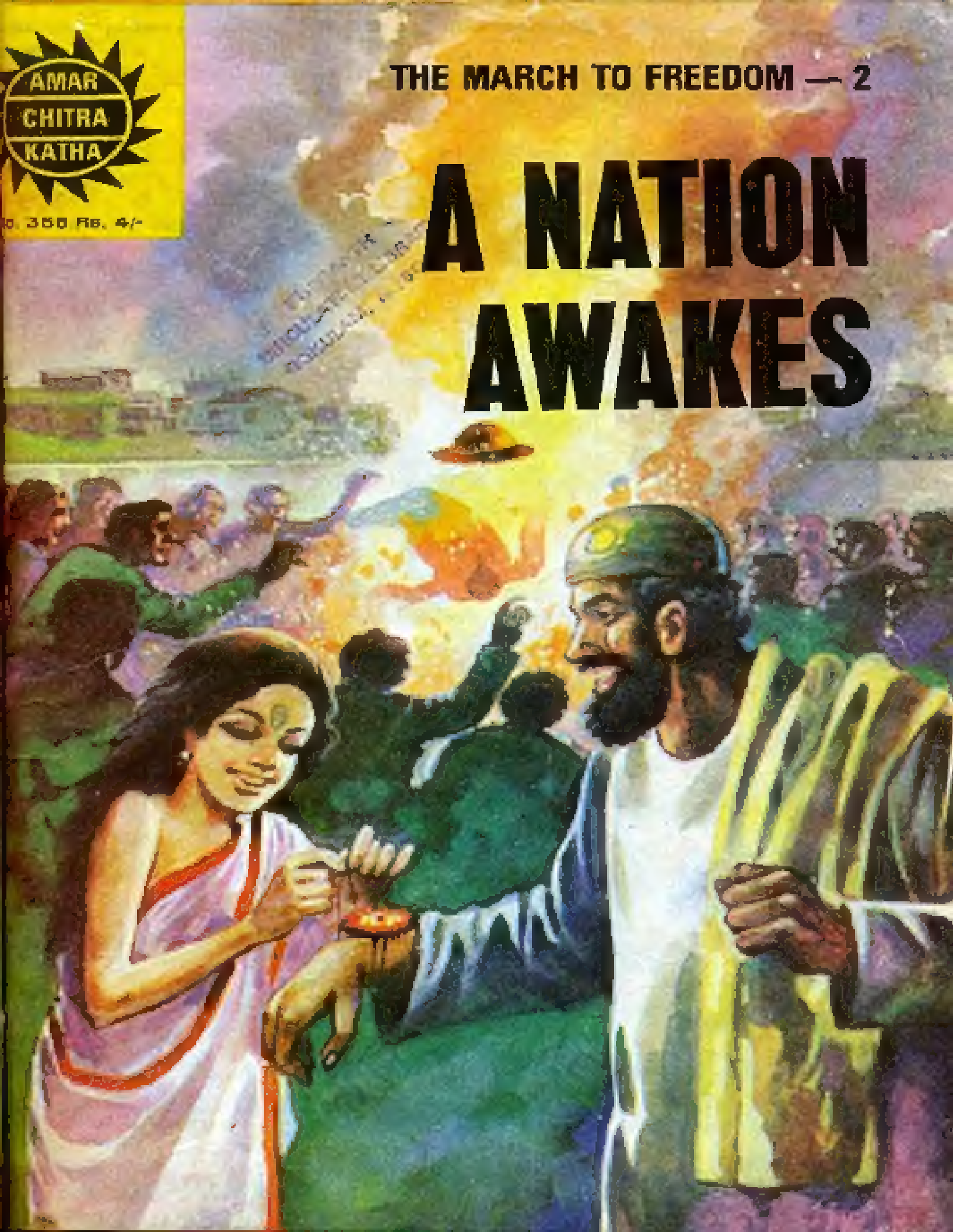




THE MARCH TO FREEDOM — 2

A NATION AWAKES



Amar Chitra Katha

No. 358

May 1, 1988

Editor
ANANT PAI

Associate Editor
YAGYA SHARMA

Reference Assistance
SHOBHA RAO

Script
SURRA RAO

Artwork
RAM WAEERKAR

Art Consultant
RAM WAEERKAR

Production
GOVIND KOTWANI

*

Published by:

H. G. MURCHANDANI

for IBH Publishers Pvt. Ltd.,
Mahalaxmi Chambers,
22, Bhulabhai Desai Road,
Bombay 400 026 and printed by him
at IBH Printers, Marol Naka,
Mathuradas Vissanji Road,
Andheri (East), Bombay 400 059.

© IBH Publishers Pvt. Ltd.,
Bombay 400 026.

All rights reserved 1988

Distributors in U. S. A.
Admans Enterprises Inc.
1123 Broadway Suite 1010
New York N.Y. 10010

Subscription: (in India only)

Rs. 48/- for 12 issues and Rs. 94/-

for 24 issues. (Add Rs. 8/-
for outstation cheques).

Sole Authorised Agency for
Subscriptions: Partha Books Division,
Nav Prabhat Chambers,
Ranjde Road, Dadar,
Bombay 400 028.

When you buy a
Chitra Katha
make sure it is



THE MARCH TO FREEDOM—2

A Nation Awakes

Lord Curzon partitioned Bengal and united the people of India. When appeals and petitions failed, the people of Bengal resolved to fight. The weapon they chose was swadeshi and the blow was aimed at European business interests. The movement spread across the state boundary and soon the cry, VANDE MATARAM, came to be heard from Kanya Kumari to Kashmir.

The swadeshi movement exposed the inherent weakness of a foreign power governing India. It also helped the people to discover their strength. Swadeshi enterprise and national education were the direct offshoots of this movement.

The movement caused a vertical split in the Indian National Congress. The extremists—those who believed in agitating for their rights—parted company from the moderates, who continued to believe in petitions to the government. This period also witnessed a spurt in revolutionary activities. And perhaps, a more tragic development was the communal colour given to the conflict between the landlords and peasants in Bengal.

In spite of these internal differences, the people of India continued the struggle till the partition of Bengal was annulled.

We have referred, among others, to the following books in preparing this volume:

1. Communalism in Modern India—Bipan Chandra 1984.
2. Gopal Krishna Gokhale—T.V. Parvate 1959.
3. History & Culture of the Indian People, Volume XI—Gen. Ed. R.C. Majumdar, 1969.
4. History of the Freedom Movement in India Volume III—Tara Chand, 1972
5. India Under Morley & Minto—M.N. Das, 1964
6. Indian Unrest—Chirol Valentine, 1910
7. India Wins Freedom—Maulana Azad, 1959.
8. Lokamanya Tilak—Dhananjay Keer, 1959
9. Muslim Politics, 1906—1946—Humayun Kabir, 1969.
10. Speeches of Gokhale, 1966.
11. The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal, 1903-1908, Sumit Sarkar, 1973.

OUR NEXT RELEASE ON:

May 16, 1988

Mahabharata—15
A HALL FOR YUDHISHTHIRA

THE MARCH TO FREEDOM

A NATION AWAKES

IN THE BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY BENGAL PRESENTED A PICTURE OF UNITY IN DIVERSITY. RICH AND POOR, EDUCATED AND UNEDUCATED, BROAD-MINDED AND NARROW-MINDED BELONGING TO BOTH HINDU AND MUSLIM COMMUNITIES WOULD SINK THEIR DIFFERENCES AND WORSHIP VILLAGE DEITIES...



...WORK IN THE FIELD TRANSPLANTING THE SEEDLINGS...



... AND OFFER PRAYERS AT THE DARGAS OF DARS*



AND BENGALIS WERE A HIGHLY POLITICALLY CONSCIOUS PEOPLE.

RAJA MANSINGH, WHO CARRIED THE MUGHAL STANDARD FROM THE PUNJAB IN THE EAST TO KABUL IN THE WEST, BECAME A HINDU GOVERNOR IN THE HEART OF A MOHAMMEDAN POPULATION.

WHERE IS THE INDIAN GOVERNOR OF A BRITISH PROVINCE? WHERE IS THE INDIAN COMMANDER OF A BRITISH DIVISION? WHERE IS THE INDIAN ADVISER OF A BRITISH VICEROY?

LORD CURZON, THE BRITISH VICEROY, HAD OF COURSE NO INTENTION OF APPOINTING OUR COUNTRYMEN TO HIGH PUBLIC OFFICES.

THE HIGHEST RANKS OF CIVIL EMPLOYMENT IN INDIA MUST BE HELD BY ENGLISHMEN FOR THE REASON THAT...



... THEY POSSESS PARTLY BY HEREDITY, PARTLY BY UPBRINGING, PARTLY BY EDUCATION, THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT, THE HABITS OF MIND, AND THE VIGOUR OF CHARACTER WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE TASK.

SURENDRANATH BANERJI — POPULARLY KNOWN AS 'SURRENDER-NOT-BANERJI' THUNDERED —

I PROTEST AGAINST THIS ASSUMPTION OF OUR RACIAL INFERIORITY. ARE INDIANS INFERIOR TO EUROPEANS?

NO!
NO! NO!

THE GROWING EXPECTATIONS OF OUR COUNTRYMEN CAUSED DISMAY AMONG BRITISH OFFICIALS.

THE REAL DANGER TO OUR RULE IN INDIA COMES FROM THE EDUCATED INDIANS WHEN THEY ADOPT WESTERN IDEAS OF AGITATION...



BENGALIS!
THEY ARE THE
CHIEF
CULPRITS.



THE BRITISH OFFICIALS REVIVED THE PROPOSAL OF REORGANIZATION OF PROVINCES.

TRANSFER EAST BENGAL TO ASSAM AND FORM A NEW PROVINCE OF EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM. MUSLIMS WILL FORM THE MAJORITY IN THE NEW PROVINCE.

AND
IN THE OLD
PROVINCE
BENGALIS WILL BE
OUTNUMBERED BY
BIHARIS AND
ORISSAS.



BENGAL
UNITED IS A
POWER. BENGAL
DIVIDED WILL
FALL IN SEVERAL
DIRECTIONS.



OUR BENGALI BROTHERS HELP PROTEST MEETINGS. THEY SENT A PETITION SIGNED BY OVER 75,000 PEOPLE TO THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT IN LONDON. THEY TOOK OUT PROCESSIONS.



BUT LORD CURZON REMAINED UNMOVED

IF WE SHOW OUR WEAKNESS BY YIELDING TO THEIR CLAMOUR WE SHALL NOT BE ABLE TO DIVIDE BENGAL.



BIPIN CHANDRA PAL, ONE OF THE LEADERS, WAS A BITTER MAN.

IF ANYTHING COULD PROVE THE UTTER FUTILITY OF OUR SO-CALLED METHODS OF CONSTITUTIONAL POLITICAL AGITATION... THE HISTORY OF THE AGITATION AGAINST THE PROPOSAL TO PARTITION BENGAL HAS DONE IT.



HOWEVER, POET RABINDRANATH TAGORE REMAINED COOL!

IF A TREE WERE TO PLEAD WITH THE MAN—YOUR BLOWS WILL KILL ME—WOULD IT BE SPARED?

TURN AWAY FROM OLD-STYLE POLITICS, TRYING IN VAIN TO PLACATE THE FOREIGN RULER AND TALKING BIG IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE. GO TO THE VILLAGES.



TILL THEN THE USUAL PRACTICE WAS TO HOLD MEETINGS IN CALCUTTA AND OTHER TOWNS, SUBMIT PETITIONS IN ENGLISH AND DELIVER TALKS IN ENGLISH.

VOLUNTEERS BEGAN TO MOBILIZE PUBLIC OPINION IN VILLAGES AND SMALL TOWNS.

FIRANGIS ARE A NATION OF MERCHANTS. THEY UNDERSTAND ONE LANGUAGE. BOYCOTT.



BOYCOTT MANCHESTER CLOTH. PRACTISE SWADESHI... WE WILL UNITE DIVIDED BENGAL.



PRAYERS AGAINST PARTITION WERE HELD IN MOSQUES IN MUMBAI, BOMBAY AND KOLKATA...



... AND AT KALSHET TEMPLE, CALCUTTA —



HINDU AND MUSLIM STUDENTS OF CALCUTTA MARCHED HAND IN HAND AND HELD A 10,000-STRONG RALLY WHERE THEIR LEADER, ABUL KALAM AZAD, DECLARED —



BUT CURZON HAD OTHER IDEAS.



AND POET RABINDRANATH SPOKE FOR ALL BENGAL —



16TH OCTOBER, 1905. MEN AND WOMEN, RICH AND POOR, HINDUS AND MUSLIMS WALKED BAREFOOT TO THE BANKS OF THE GANGA AND EXCHANGED RAKHIS.



RABINDRANATH TAGORE DASHED INTO THE NAKHODA MASJID...

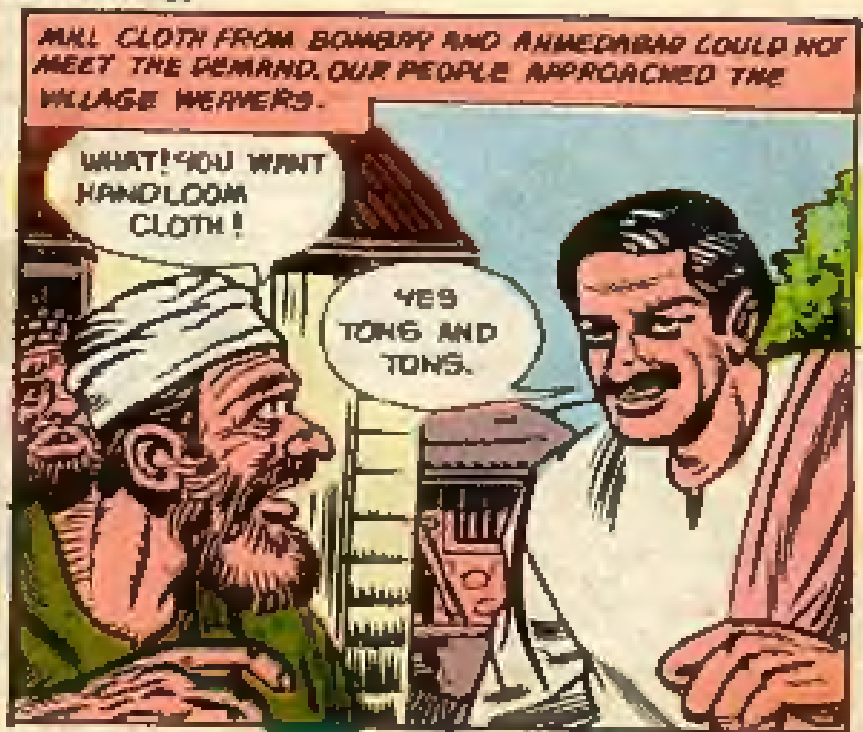


... EMBRACED THE MULLAS AND TIED RAKHIS TO THEIR WRISTS.

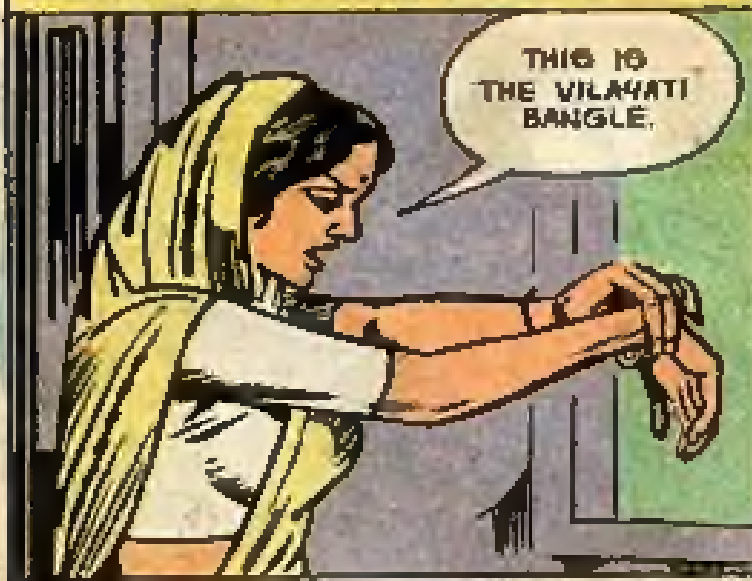


RAKHIS WERE TIED TO THE POLICEMEN AND EVEN TO THE EUROPEANS.



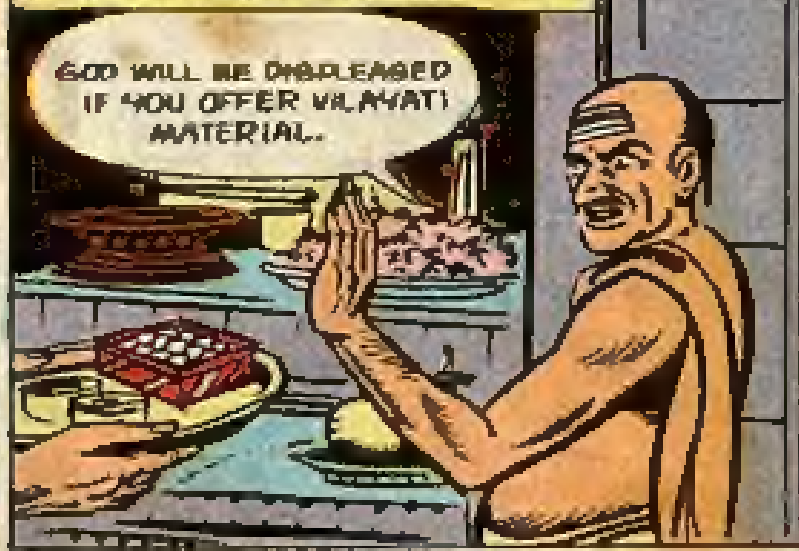


WOMEN REMOVED THEIR BANGLES.



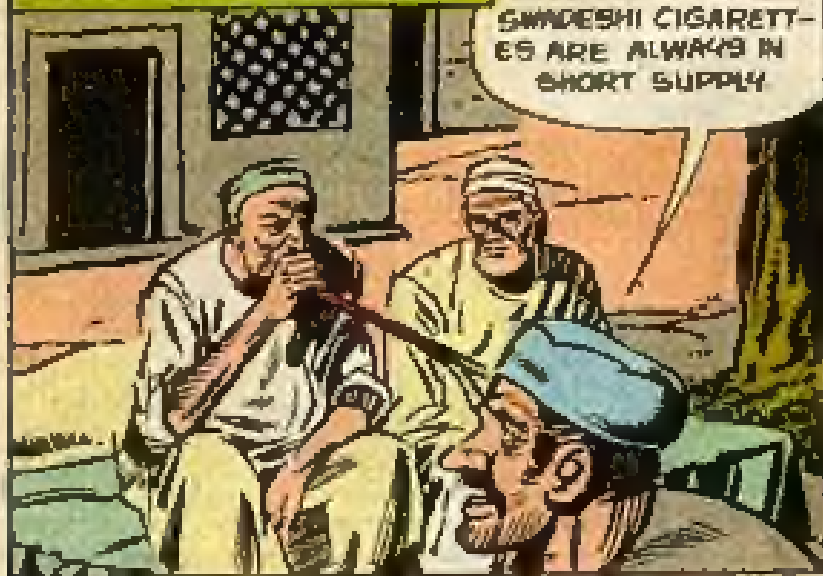
THIS IS
THE VILAYATI
BANGLE.

PRIESTS REFUSED TO TOUCH
SWEETS MADE OF FOREIGN SUGAR.



GOD WILL BE DISPLEASED
IF YOU OFFER VILAYATI
MATERIAL.

MEN GAVE UP SMOKING.



WHAT TO DO.
SWADESHI CIGARETTES
ARE ALWAYS IN
SHORT SUPPLY.

AND THEY REFUSED TO
TOUCH FOREIGN LIQUOR.



WOMEN WANTED SWADESHI MATCHES.



YOU'D BETTER
GET ME SWADESHI
MATCHES. OTHERWISE
YOU MAY HAVE TO
GO WITHOUT
FOOD.

CHILDREN WANTED SWADESHI PAPER,
SWADESHI INK AND SWADESHI NIBS.



LISTEN TO ME, CHILD.
THESE NIBS BREAK.
YOUR HANDWRITING
WILL BE SPOILED.

WHAT I WRITE
WITH SWADESHI
NIB IS THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL
WRITING.

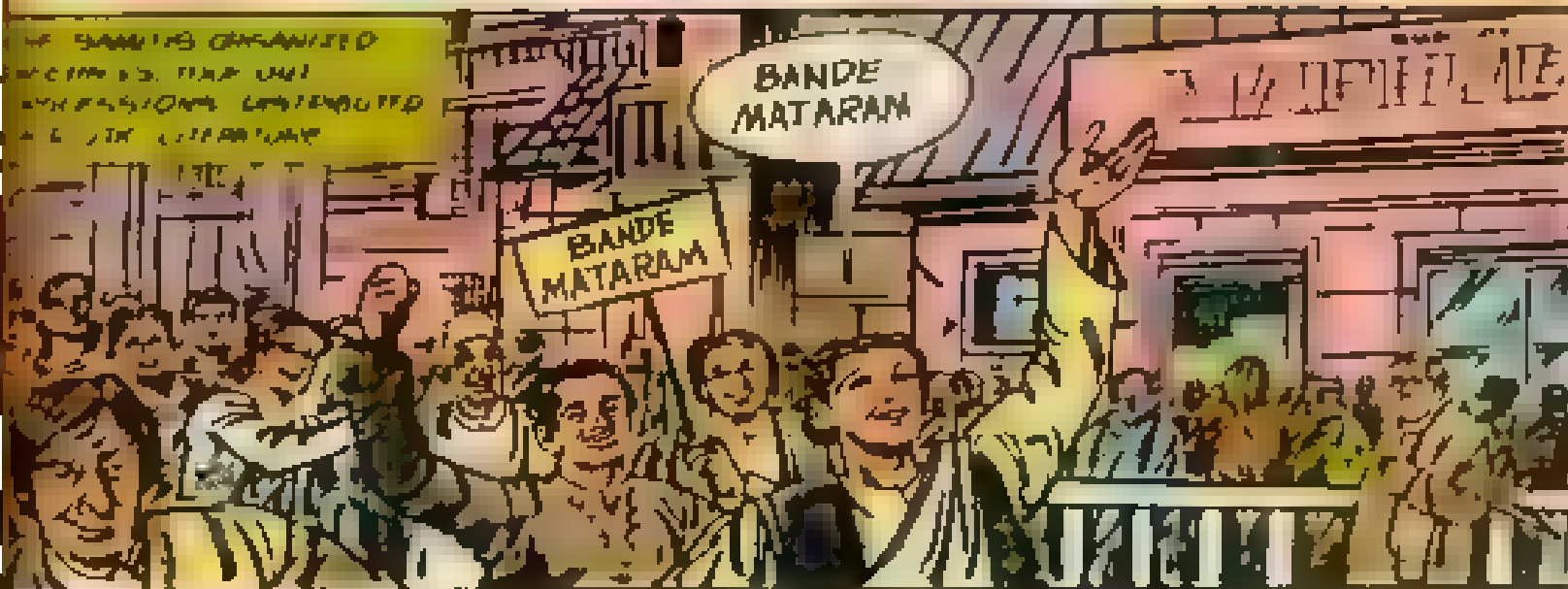
ALTHOUGH THE SWADESHI GOODS WERE IN SHORT SUPPLY, THEIR PRESENCE ALL OVER BENGAL. HOWEVER SOME UNCONSCIOUS TRADERS DID NOT MANAGE TO INFLATE THE PRICE OF SWADESHI GOODS THAT WERE SCARCE.



TO PUT A STOP TO THIS PRACTICE, SEVERAL SAMITIS WERE FORMED. THESE WERE BODIES MADE UP OF PEOPLE AT COMMUNITY LEVEL.



THE SAMITIS ORGANIZED MEETINGS, GAVE OUT PAMPHLETS, AND DISTRIBUTED A LOT OF LITERATURE.



IN 1907, THE LT GOVERNOR OF THE NEW PROVINCE OF EAST BENGAL, WHO ARRIVED



THE HEADMASTERS OF SCHOOLS RECEIVED CIRCULARS FROM THE GOVERNMENT ASKING THEM TO TAKE STRICT ACTION AGAINST OFFENDING STUDENTS.



KHUPRABAHNA DASGUPTA, THE HEADMASTER OF MADAROUR SCHOOL, CALLED A MEETING OF HIS STUDENTS

THE GOVERNMENT HAS BANNED THE RAISING OF THE S. O. SAN —
BANDE MATARAM

I DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED HAVE ONLY TWO WORDS TO SAY

BANDE MATARAM

STUDENTS CHEERED THEIR HEADMASTER AND RE-SONDED IN ENTHUSIASTIC WORDS

BANDE MATARAM

IT IS NEEDLESS TO SAY THAT DASGUPTA LOST HIS JOB

AT RANGPUR 365 BOYS WHO DEFIED THE GOVERNMENT ORDER AND ATTENDED SHAKTESHI MEETINGS WERE THROWN OUT OF THE SCHOOL

WE ARE HAPPY WE WON'T HAVE TO ATTEND THE GOVERNMENT SCHOOL

WE WANT SHAKTESHI SCHOOLS WHERE WEATH STUDENT IS NOT CONSIDERED A CRIME

RANGPUR HAD THE LASTING EFFECT OF SETTING UP THE FIRST NATIONAL SCHOOL

WITNIN SCHOOLS SPANG UP ALLIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES AT RAIPURA IN MADHIA, CLASSES WERE HELD AT THE HOUSE OF A MUSLIM.

COME CHILDREN, COME

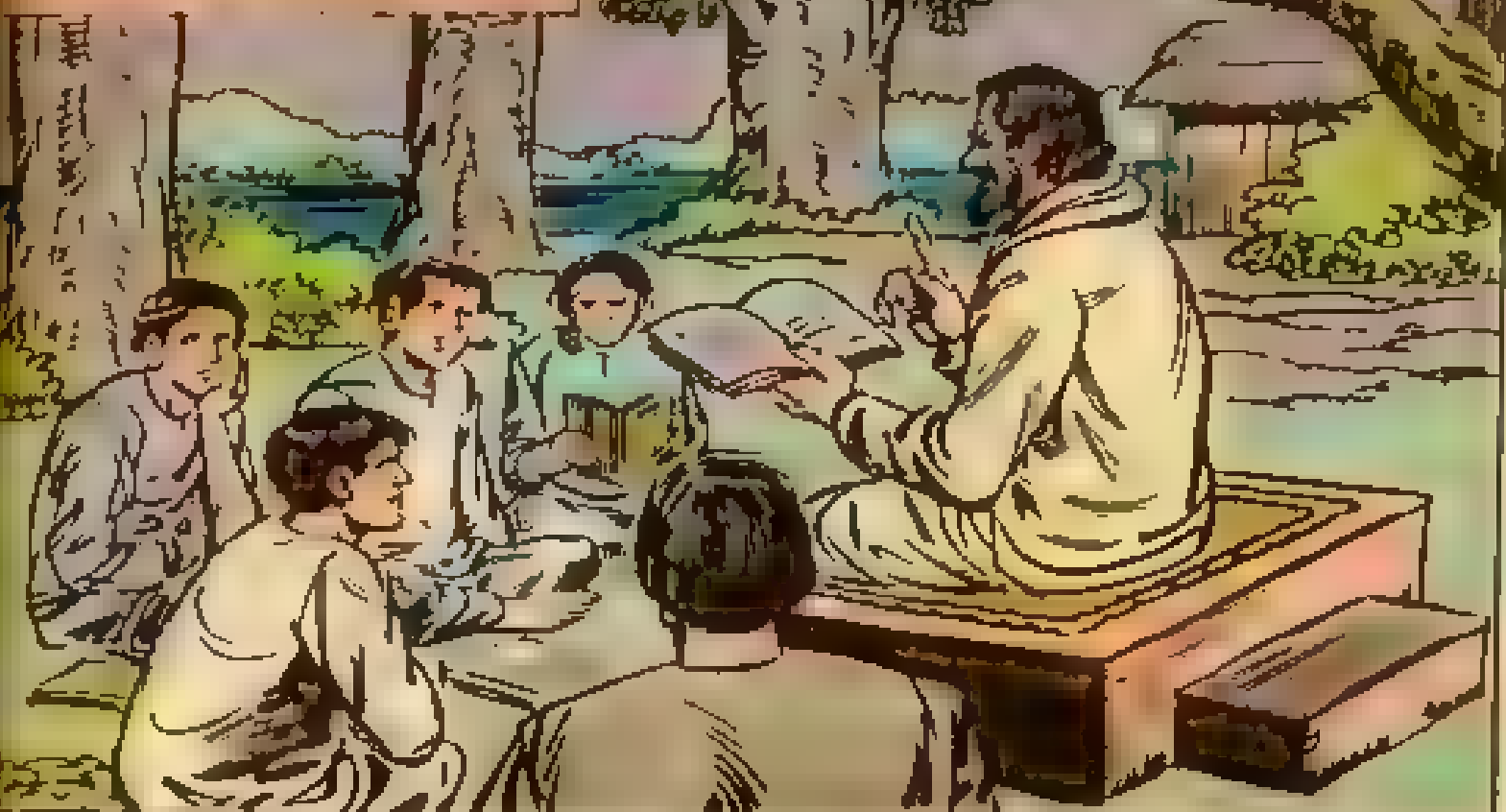
AND IN DHALISSAM THE NATIONAL SCHOOL WAS THROWN OPEN TO NAMAHINDRAS

IN CALCUTTA TWO INSTITUTIONS CAME INTO BEING — THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATION AND THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION. THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS BOYCOTTED OFFICIAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND SOUGHT ADMISSION TO NATIONAL SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

OUR COURSE IS NOT RECOGNIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT. YOU WILL NOT GET JOBS IN THE GOVERNMENT.

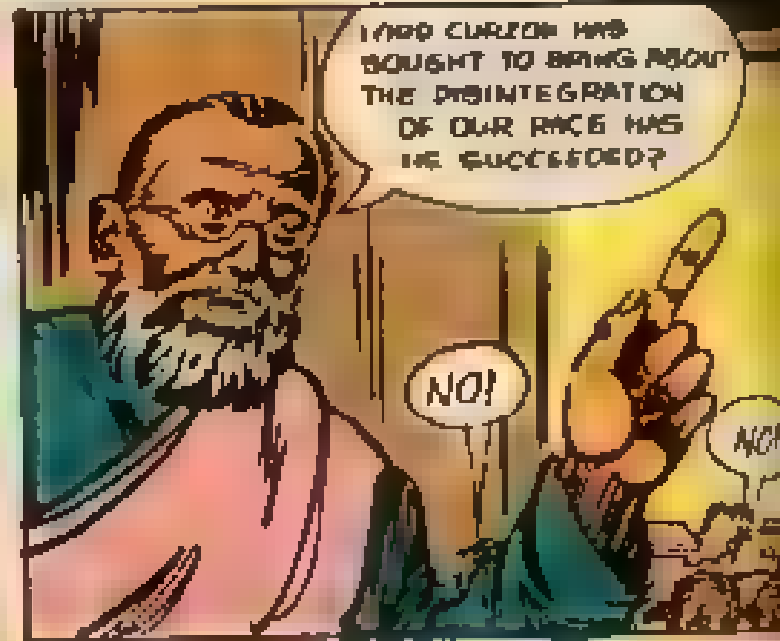
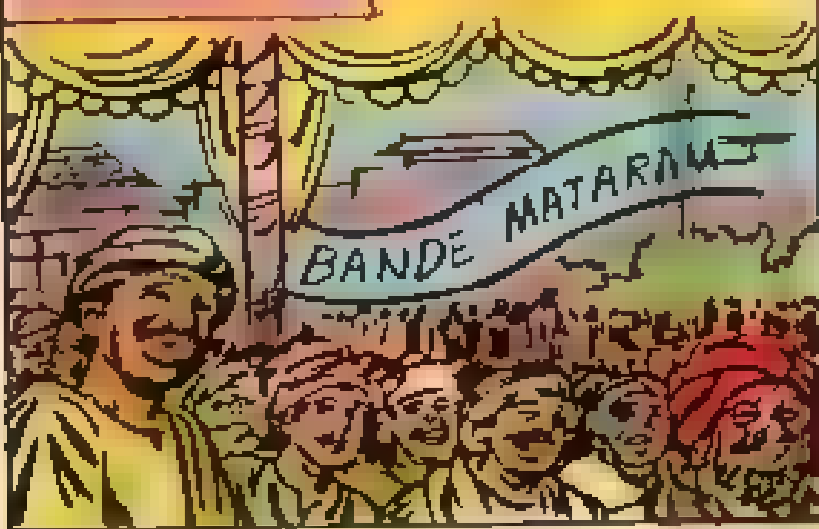
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF BECOMING A GUMASTA IN A GOVERNMENT OFFICE, SIR

POET RABINDRANATH TAGORE WOULD WORK AT SANTINIKETAN

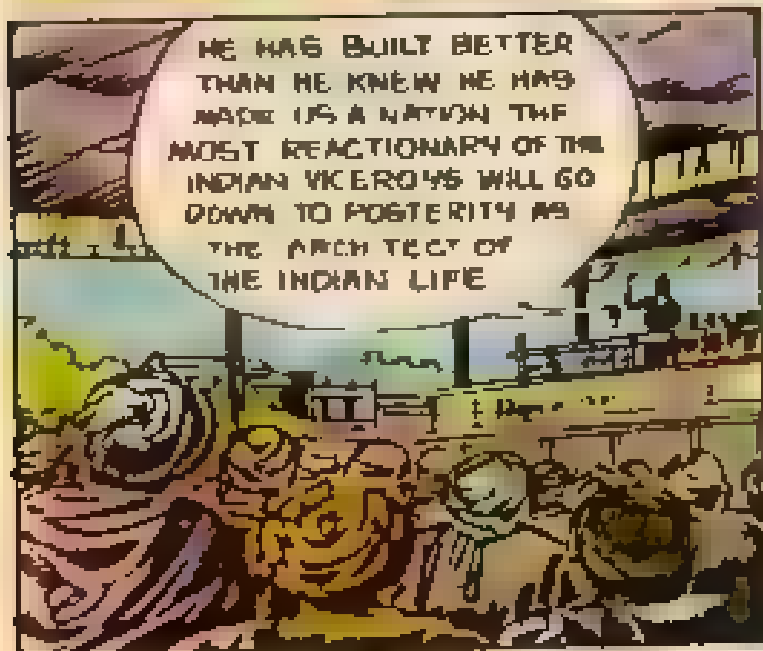


REJECT OF BRITISH WHO WERE ELEVATED IN THEIR SOCIAL STATUS BY THEIR LONG ASSOCIATION WITH THE BRITISH.

THE ALL INDIA NATIONAL CONGRESS MET AT MADRAS IN 1925. SUBBODRATHA BANERJEE RECEIVED A STANDING Ovation.



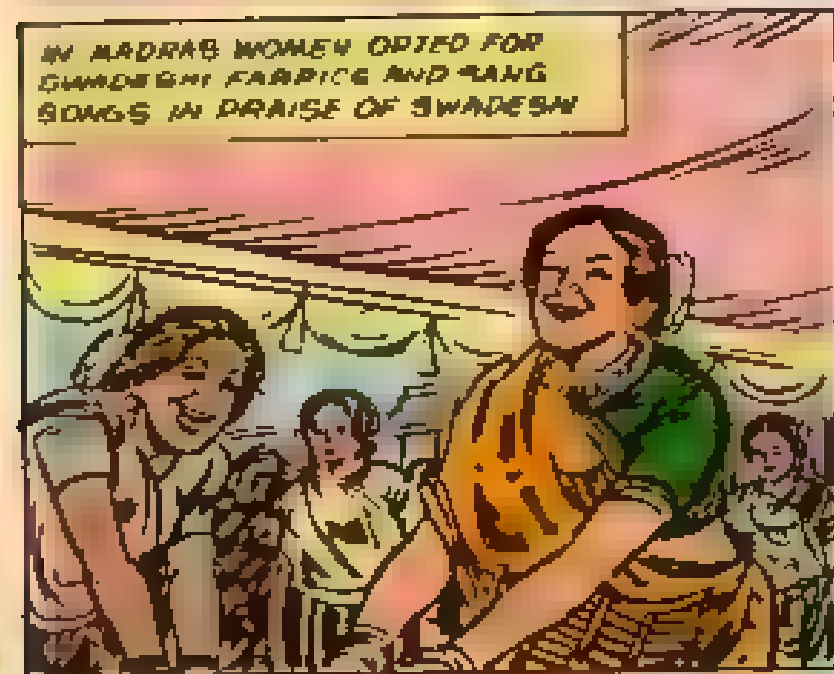
HE HAS BUILT BETTER THAN HE KNEW HE HAS MADE US A NATION THE MOST REACTIONARY OF THE INDIAN VIKEROYS WILL GO DOWN TO POSTERITY AS THE ARCH TECT OF THE INDIAN LIFE



YES THE ENTIRE NATION TOOK UP SWADESHI AND BOYCOTT OF EUROPEAN GOODS



IN MADRAS WOMEN OPTED FOR SWADESHI FARRICE AND SANG SONGS IN PRAISE OF SWADESH



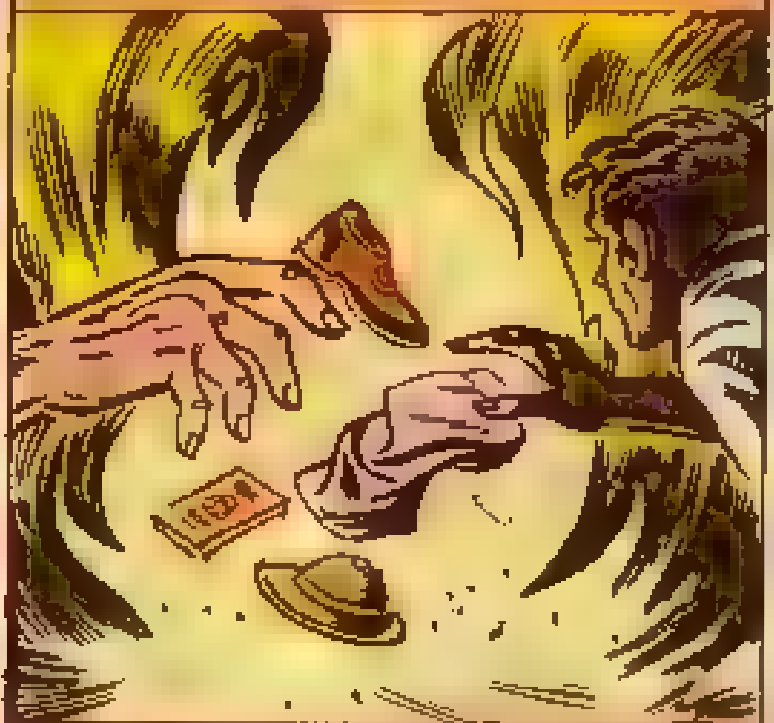
IN PUNJAB, U P AND EVEN IN SOME AREAS OF THE SOUTH VANDE MATARAM BECAME A FORM OF GREETING



WHEN LORD CURZON WAS SUCCEEDED BY LORD MINTO, OUR BENGALI BRETHREN HOPED THAT THE NEW VICEROY WOULD TAKE NOTE OF POPULAR DISCONTENT AND ANNOUNCE ANNULMENT OF PARTITION. HOWEVER WHEN A DELEGATION CALLED ON HIM —

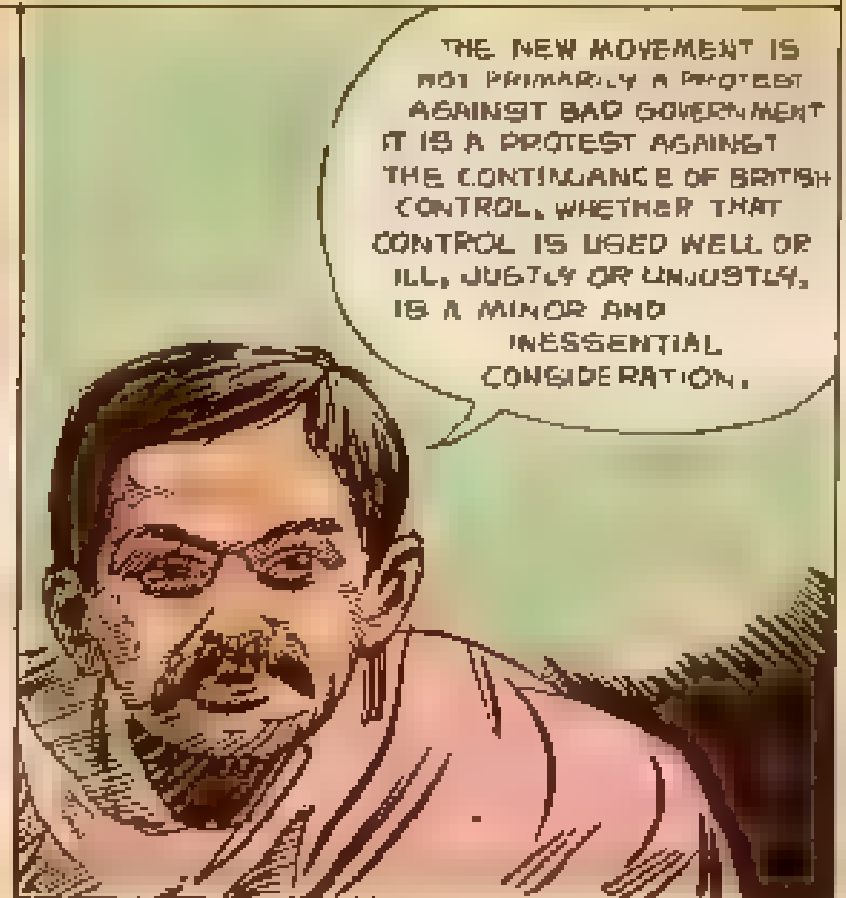
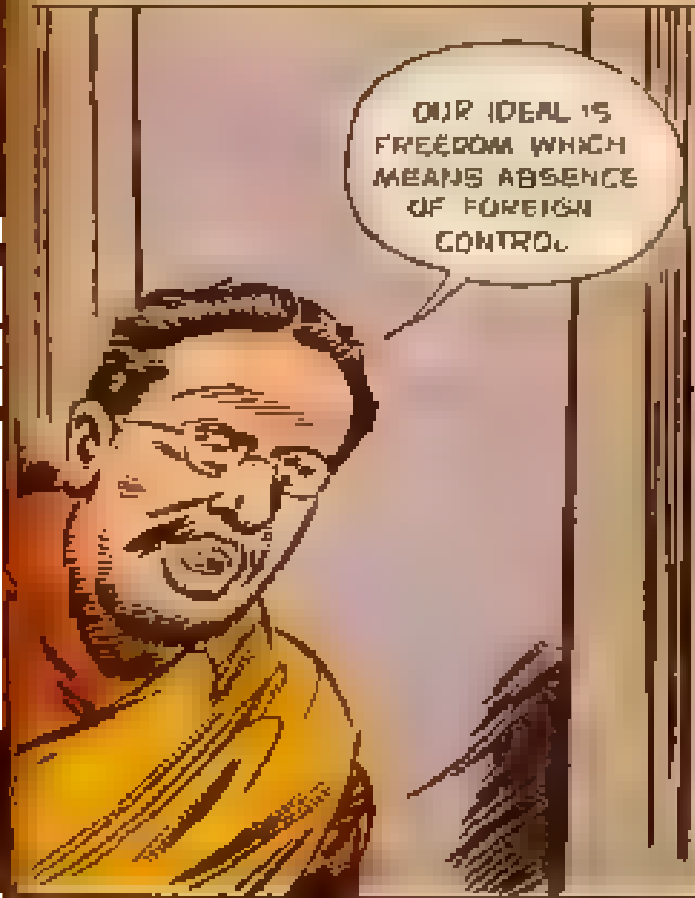


LORD MINTO'S REPLY MADE PEOPLE EVEN MORE FRUSTRATED AND ANGRY. A HUGE FIRE WAS LIT IN COLLEGE SQUARE IN CALCUTTA



THE DALHOUSES THREW DOWN INTO THE FIRE CHUDDARS, SALWARS, SHOES, CIGARETTES— ANYTHING MANUFACTURED BY THE BRITISH.

PEOPLE INTENSIFIED THE AGITATION THE GOAL NOW WAS FREEDOM FROM THE BRITISH RULE AS POINTED OUT BY BIPIN CHANDRA PAL AND SUROBINDO



A LARGE NUMBER OF WOMEN EMPLOYED IN BATTERY 1, AND 5 AND 6, WERE TAKING LEAVES OF ABSENCE ON THE QUARTER AND WALKED OFF TO JOIN THE STRIKE MOVEMENT



THE STRIKE MOVEMENT WAS INTENSIFIED BY THE FACT THAT MANY WOMEN WERE TAKING LEAVES OF ABSENCE



WOMEN, I
BEG YOU DON'T
BUY VILMATI
GOODS

IN CASE THEY SAW SOMEONE COMING OUT OF THE SHOW



WOMEN, HAVE
YOU BUYED
VILMATI
GOODS

YES



IT IS DIFFICULT
TO GET
WOMEN TO
STOP

WE WILL ADVANCE
1 PER CENT PER
CENT OF THE
GOODS

IF THE GOVERNMENT REFUSED TO TAKE ANY OF THE GOODS AND THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BUY FOR THE GOODS AND CONVINCE THEM IN THE FUTURE



WHAT IS
THE SIGNIFICANCE
FOR YOU

NO MEANS THIS IS
THE LAST TIME I
TOUCH VILMATI
GOODS

SOME YOUNG MEN WOULD GET INTO AN ARGUMENT WITH THOSE WHO WISHED TO BUY FOREIGN GOODS -

YOUR MONEY MUST GO TO OUR POOR SLAVES, NOT TO THE MARK HESTER BARONS

PLEASE STAND ASIDE AND LET ME PASS.



IF YOU STILL INSIST ON BUYING VILANAT GOODS -



YOU COULD WALK ON OUR BODIES



THAT WAS THE SIGNAL FOR THE POLICE TO COME RUSHING -



WIELDING LATHIS



FULFILL, THE LT. GOVERNOR OF THE NEW PROVINCE OF EAST BENGAL, WAS NOT PREPARED TO ADOPT UNTHINKING MEASURES TO BREAK THE MOVEMENT.

"YOU WILL SEE TO IT THAT NO ONE RAISES THE CHAOS BANDE MATARAM"

WORKING WHO SHOUTED BANDE MATARAM WERE GIVEN A CHARGE.

BANDE MATARAM

(THREAT) BANDE MATARAM

AND FLOGGED

BANDE MATARAM

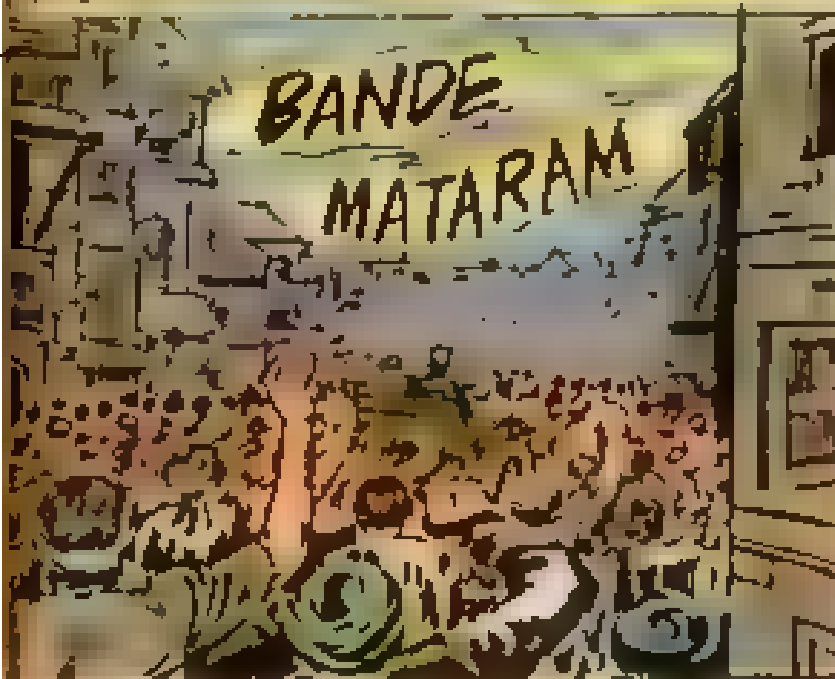
DO YOU SEE WHAT IS WRITTEN ON THE WALL - PULL DOWN THAT NOBSE

BANDE MATARAM

IN CASE OF SUCH UNLAWFUL MEASURES PEOPLE REFUSED TO ROW DOWN BEFORE BILLED AT BANSAAL

WE WILL HOLD A PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE ON APRIL 14TH AND 15TH.

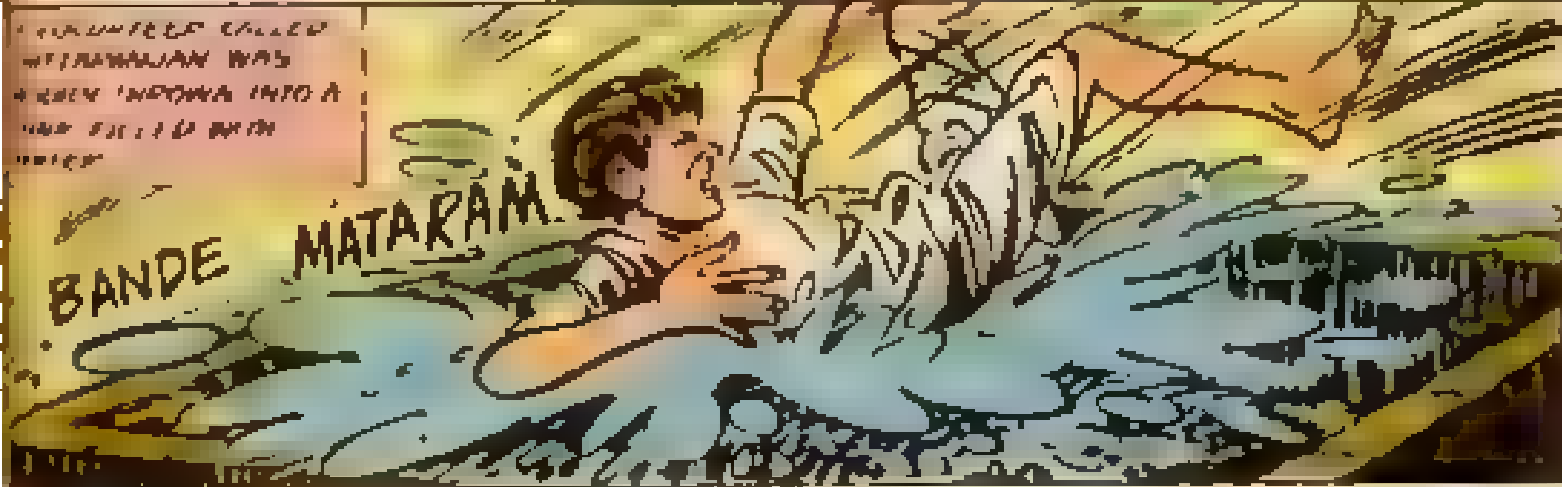
ON THE 16TH THE ENTIRE CITY OF THE PRINCIPALITY WAS
 AT A PROCESSION DURING WHICH BAPU WAS TO
 BE THE GUEST. HE WAS IN A CARRIAGE WITH HIS
 WIFE SUBHADRANATH AND OTHERS
 FOLLOWED THE CARRIAGE ON FOOT



THE POLICE ALLOWED THE CARRIAGE TO PASS
 UNHINDERED. HOWEVER THEY ORDERED THE
 LAMPS AS THE YOUNGER DELEGATES PASSED
 BY



A YOUNG BOY CALLED
 BHAKTANATH WAS
 DRIVEN INTO A
 CAR FILLER WITH
 OTHERS



AND LATER BLOWS WERE SHOWERED ON THE
 YOUNG MAN AS HE LAY IN THE CAR.



MEETING THE COMMISSION IN THE EARLY
 SUBHADRANATH TURNED BACK



SUBHODHANATH WAS TAKEN AWAY FROM HIM AND LATER SET FREE. ON HIS WAY BACK TO CALCUTTA HE RECEIVED AN ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME AT EVERY STATION. WHEN HE REACHED CALCUTTA IT WAS JUST BEFORE DAY BREAK. OVER TEN THOUSAND PEOPLE GREETED HIM.

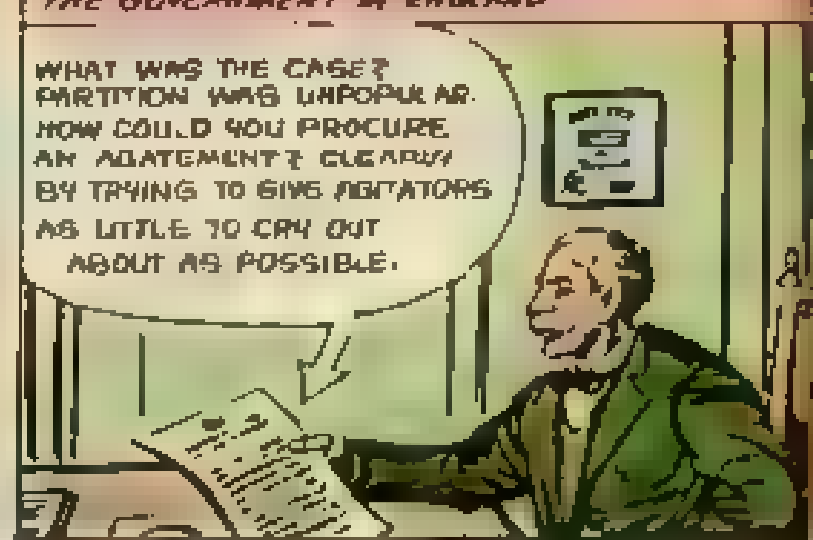


THE EXCITED YOUNGSTERS UNWOUND THE CARPAGE AND DREW IT TO COLLEGE SQUARE WHERE HE ADDRESSED A MEETING.



THE BAPTIST INCIDENT ELECTRIFIED THE NATION AND LORD MINTO RECEIVED A STRONG NOTE FROM THE GOVERNMENT IN ENGLAND.

WHAT WAS THE CASE? PARTITION WAS UNPOPULAR. HOW COULD YOU PROCURE AN AGATEMENT? CLEARLY BY TRYING TO GIVE AGITATORS AS LITTLE TO CRY OUT ABOUT AS POSSIBLE.

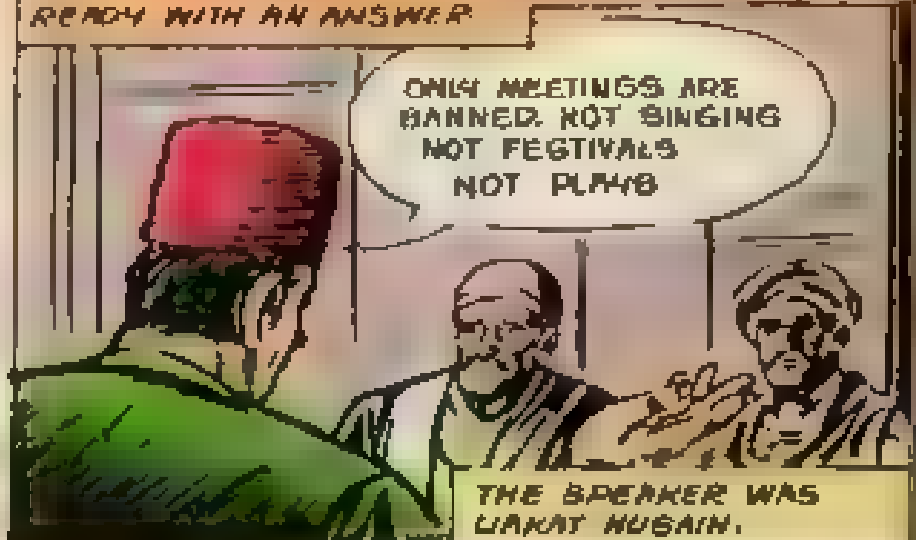


FULLER IS A FOOL



HOWEVER, THE SITUATION HAD GONE OUT OF CONTROL. LORD MINTO ISSUED AN ORDINANCE RESTRICTING THE RIGHT TO HOLD MEETINGS BUT THE AGITATORS WERE READY WITH AN ANSWER.

ONLY MEETINGS ARE BANNED. NOT SINGING NOT FESTIVALS NOT PLAYS



THE SPEAKER WAS LIKAT HUSAIN.

BOYS TRAINED BY LIKAT
MUSAIN, HIMSELF A MELODIOUS
SINGER, WENT ROUND SINGING
SONGS.

THE TIGHTER THEIR
NOOSE, THE EASIER
WOULD IT BE TO BREAK//
THE EASIER FOR US TO BE
FREE//THE MORE THEIR
EYES TURN RED, THE
MORE OUR EYES WILL
OPEN/MORE OPEN WILL
OUR EYES BE//



... WHICH THE COMMON FOLK
BEGAN TO HUM.

ARE YOU SO STRONG
TO SEVER THE CHAIN OF
DESTINY//OH! YOU THINK
YOU ARE SO STRONG//THE
PRIDE TO BREAK AND
MAKE OUR LIVES AT WILL//
OH! TO BE SO
PROUD YOU LONG//



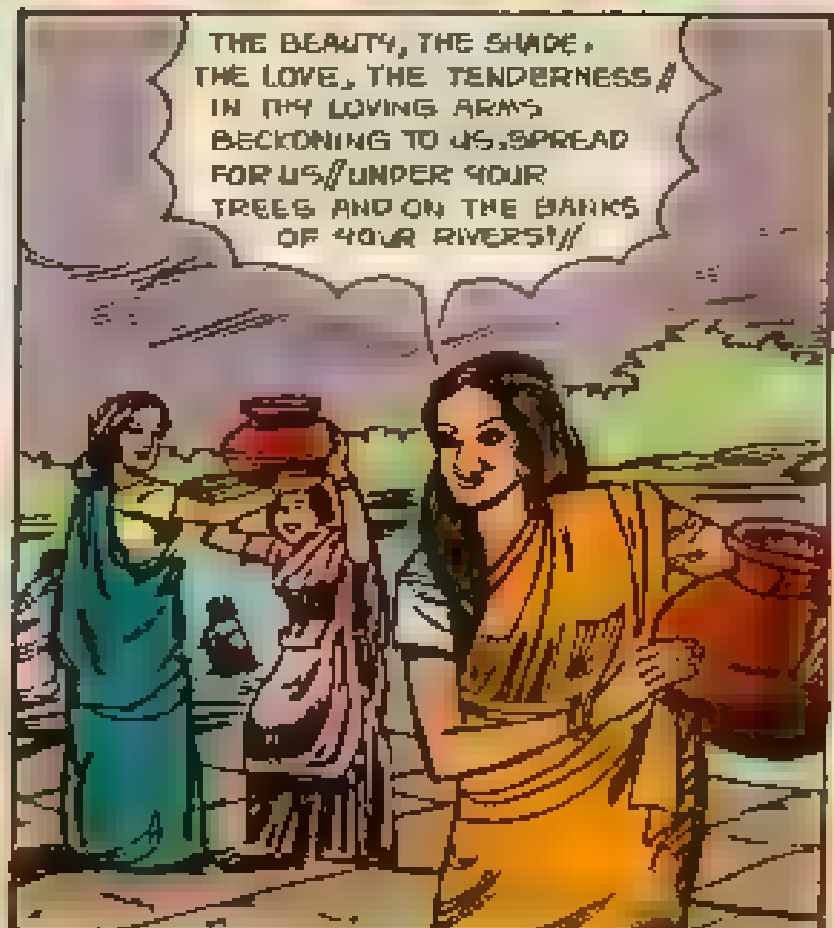
LET THE EARTH AND
THE WATER AND THE
AIR AND THE FRUITS
OF BENGAL BE HOLY,
MY LORD//
LET THE LIVES AND
THE MINDS OF ALL
THE BROTHERS AND
SISTERS OF BENGAL
BE ONE, MY LORD//

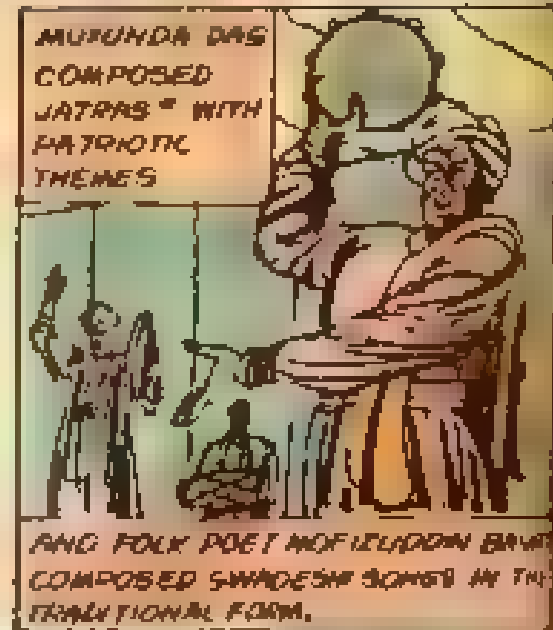
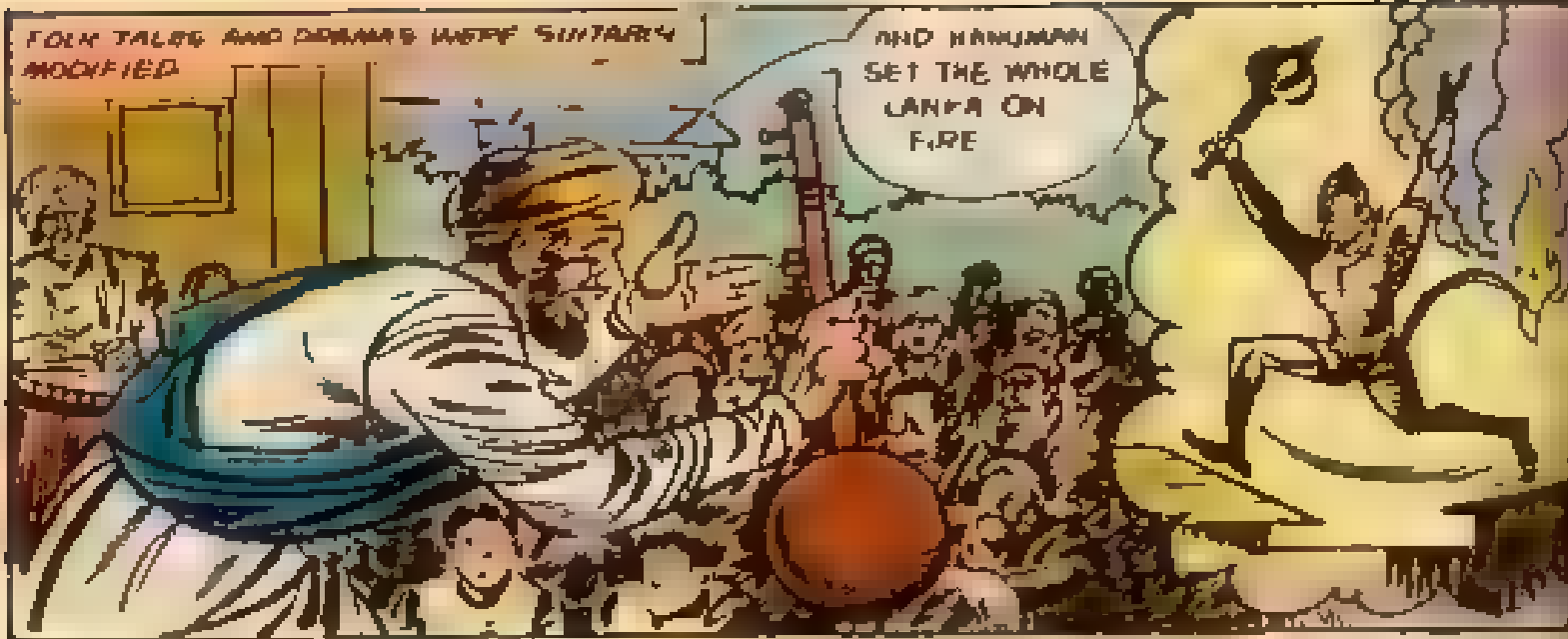


LET'S ACCEPT WITH
REVERENCE, THE COARSE
CLOTH THAT OUR MOTHER
GIVES US//
SHE IS DRAINED OF HER
RICHES, MY BROTHERS//
THAT'S ALL SHE CAN
AFFORD TO GIVE US//



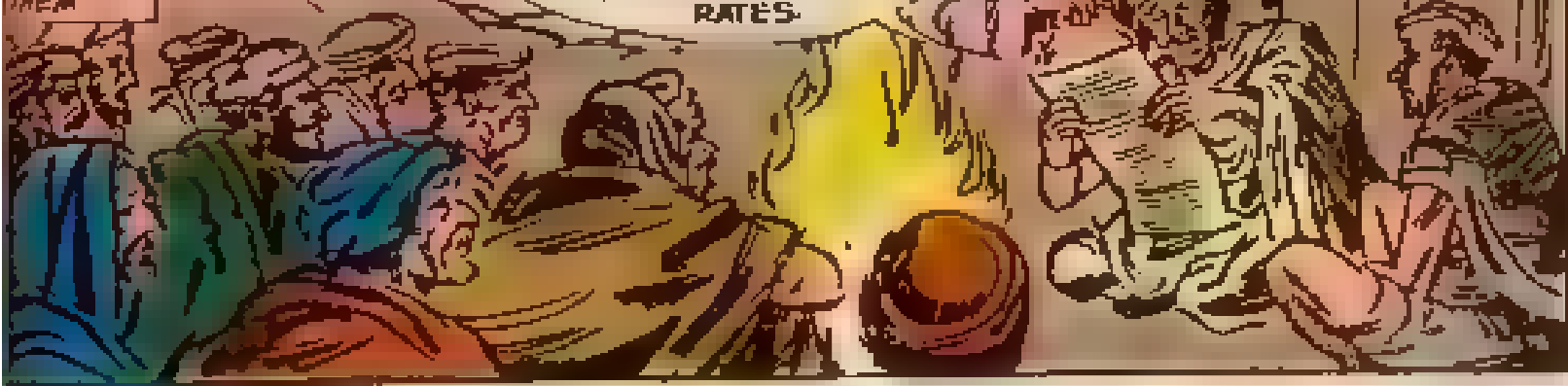
THE BEAUTY, THE SHADE,
THE LOVE, THE TENDERNESS//
IN MY LOVING ARMS
BECKONING TO US, SPREAD
FOR US//UNDER YOUR
TREES AND ON THE BANKS
OF YOUR RIVERS//





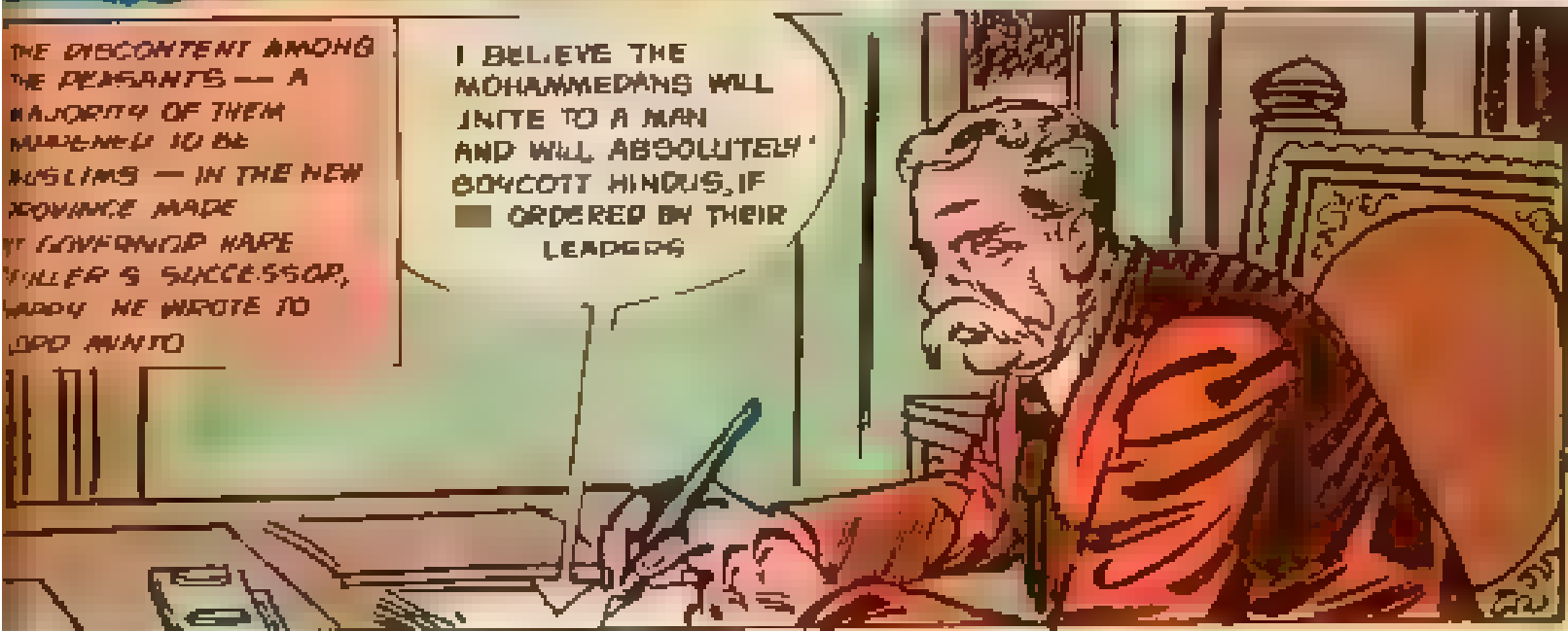
AROUND THIS TIME PEASANTS
WENTED LOT ESPECIALLY
BECAUSE OF THE EXPENSIVE
DENTS THEY WERE FORCED TO
PAY SEVERAL DRAUGHTS CAME
TO BE CIRCULATED AMONG
THEM

NOW THESE FRANGEES,
SONS OF DEVILS, DIVIDE THIS
GOLDEN BENGAL .. WE HINDUS
AND MOHAMMEDANS JOINTLY
WORSHIP THE FEET OF THE
MOTHER. WE MUST
NOT PAY ENHANCED
RATES.



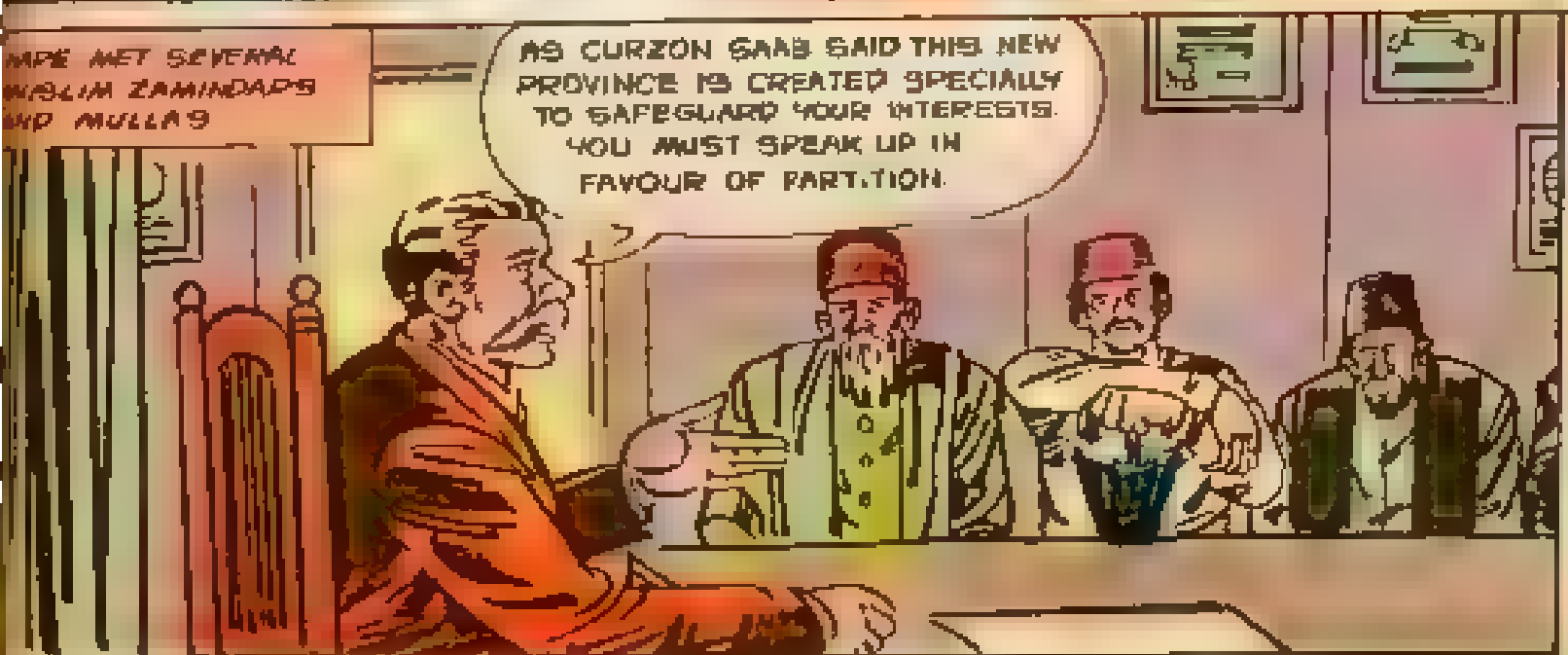
THE DISCONTENT AMONG
THE PEASANTS — A
MAJORITY OF THEM
MANEED TO BE
MUSLIMS — IN THE NEW
PROVINCE MADE
IT GOVERNOR HAD
HILLER'S SUCCESSOR,
HARDY HE WROTE TO
LORD MINTO

I BELIEVE THE
MOHAMMEDANS WILL
JOIN TO A MAN
AND WILL ABSOLUTELY
BOYCOTT HINDUS, IF
ORDERED BY THEIR
LEADERS



HAD MET SEVERAL
MUSLIM ZAMINDARS
AND MULLAS

AS CURZON SAAB SAID THIS NEW
PROVINCE IS CREATED SPECIALLY
TO SAFEGUARD YOUR INTERESTS.
YOU MUST SPEAK UP IN
FAVOUR OF PARTITION.



THE COMMON PEASANTS WERE NOT INTERESTED IN THE POLITICS OF PARTITION

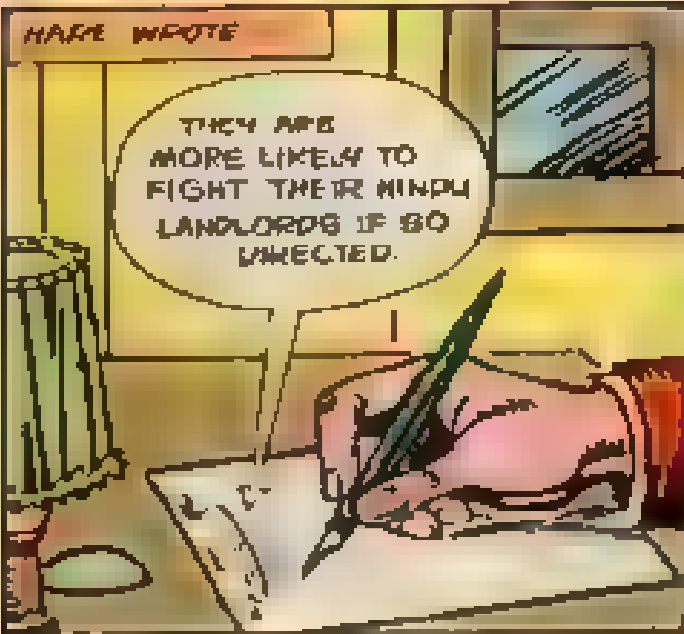
ALL NEW SYSTEMS BENEFIT ONLY ONE PERSON—THE ZAMINDAR BE HE A HINDU OR A MUSLIM

I AGREE BUT MUST WE PAY ENHANCED RATES? CAN WE AFFORD TO?



HARE WROTE

THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO FIGHT THEIR HINDU LANDLORDS IF SO DIRECTED.



THE ANGER AGAINST ZAMINDARS WAS ALREADY THERE. IT NEEDED ONLY A SPARK TO EXPLODE AND EXPLODE IT DID. MUSLIM SERVANTS DEFIED THEIR MASTERS—



AND RIOTS BROKE OUT IN COMILLA, MYMENSINGH AND A COUPLE OF OTHER PLACES

HOUSES OF ZAMINDARS AND MONEY-LENDERS WERE RANSACKED, GRAIN LOOTED AND PROMISSORY NOTES SET ON FIRE



IN SEVERAL PLACES PEASANTS HAD TO BE CALLED IN. MUSLIMS AND THE LANDLORDS WERE SHOWN HOW HINDU PEASANTS ALSO JOINED IN THE PLUNDER AND MUSLIM PEASANTS DID NOT HESITATE IN LOOTING MUSLIM LANDLORDS



IT HAD A CASE OF THOUSANDS OF THE RICH BY THE POOR

ON HEARING THE NEWS OF THE RIOTS, KAVAT HUSAIN RUSHED TO BOMBENGAH



THE POLICE FOUND URDU PAMPHLETS.



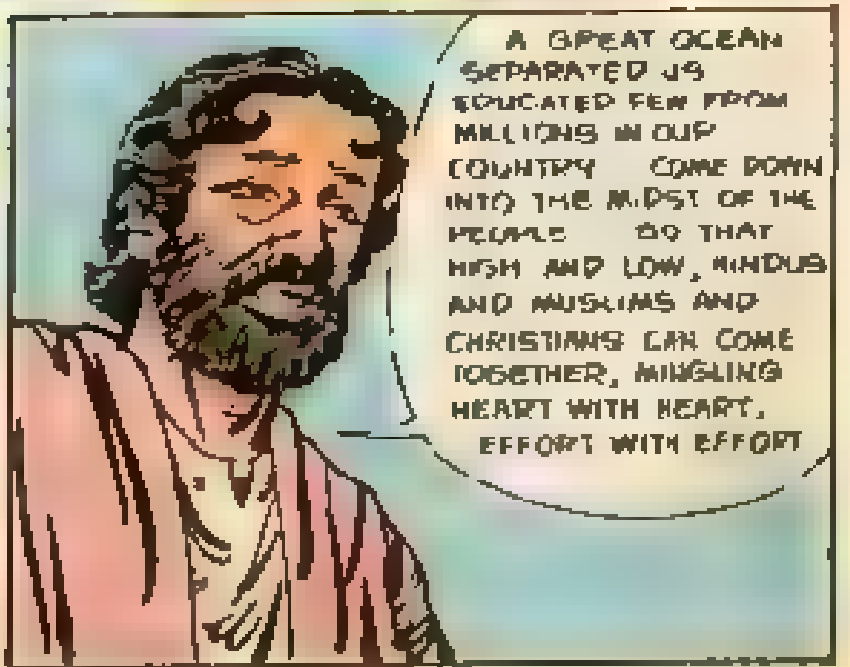
THE BRITISH OFFICIALS WERE HAPPY.



SEVERAL NATIONAL LEADERS BLAMED THE GOVERNMENT FOR INCITING THE MUSLIMS



MOORE DECLARED -



THE BOYCOTT OF EUROPEAN GOODS CONTINUED. THOSE WHO REFUSED TO OBSERVE SWADESHI HAD TO FACE SOCIAL OSTRACIZATION



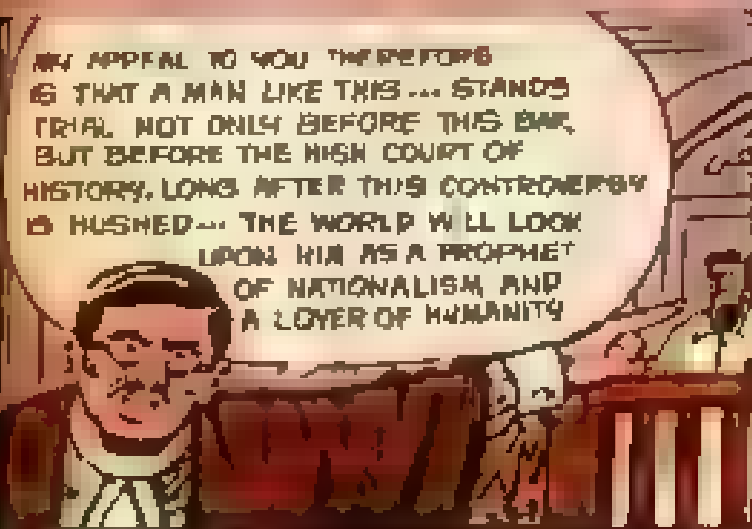
MEANWHILE A FEW YOUNG MEN WERE GETTING IMPATIENT. THEY FORMED REVOLUTIONARY GROUPS AND DECIDED TO STRIKE ALTHOUGH THEY KNEW THEY WERE NO MATCH FOR THE BRITISH POWER



THE FIRST EVER BOMB WAS EXPLODED BY KHUPRAM BOSE ON APRIL 30, 1908

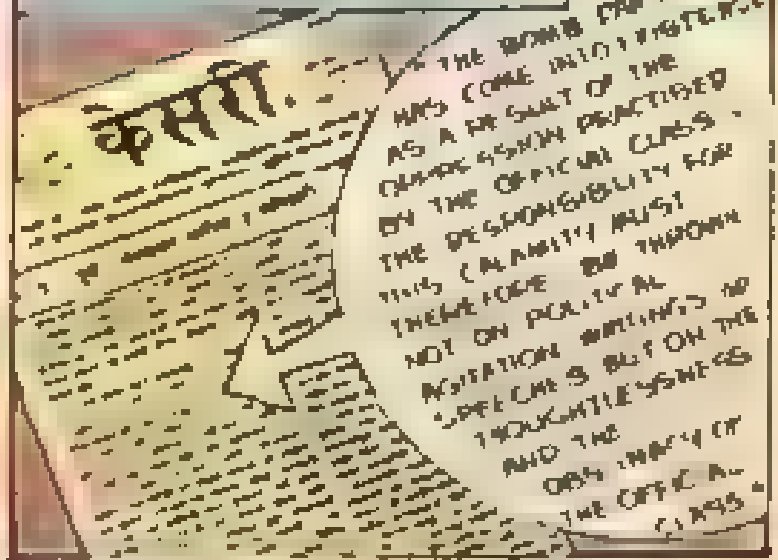


MANY REVOLUTIONARIES WERE POUNDED UP AND UROBINDO GHOSH WAS ALSO IMPLICATED IN THE CASE HIS FRIEND C P LAL BAND IN THE COURT



MY APPEAL TO YOU THEREFORE IS THAT A MAN LIKE THIS ... STANDS TRIAL NOT ONLY BEFORE THIS BAR, BUT BEFORE THE HIGH COURT OF HISTORY. LONG AFTER THIS CONTROVERSY IS HUSHED ... THE WORLD WILL LOOK UPON HIM AS A PROPHET OF NATIONALISM AND A LOVER OF HUMANITY

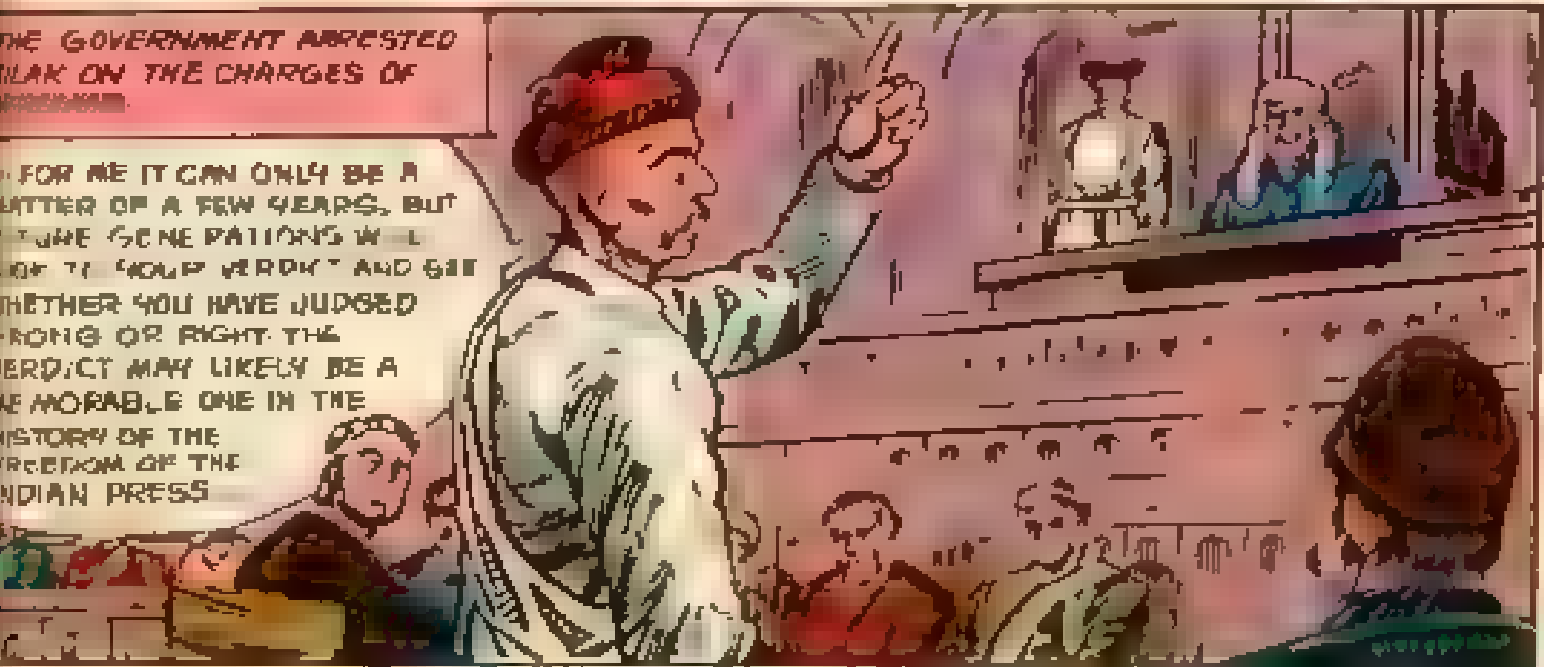
IN PUNE TILAK WROTE AN EDITORIAL ON THE BOMB CASE



THE BOMB CASE HAS COME INTO EXISTENCE AS A RESULT OF THE CHAOS WHICH PREVAIL IN THE OFFICIAL CLASS. THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS CALAMITY MUST THEREFORE BE THROWN NOT ON POLITICAL AGITATION WORKERS NO SPEECHES BUT ON THE THOUGHTLESSNESS AND THE ORBITARINESS OF THE OFFICIAL CLASS.

THE GOVERNMENT ARRESTED TILAK ON THE CHARGES OF SEDITION

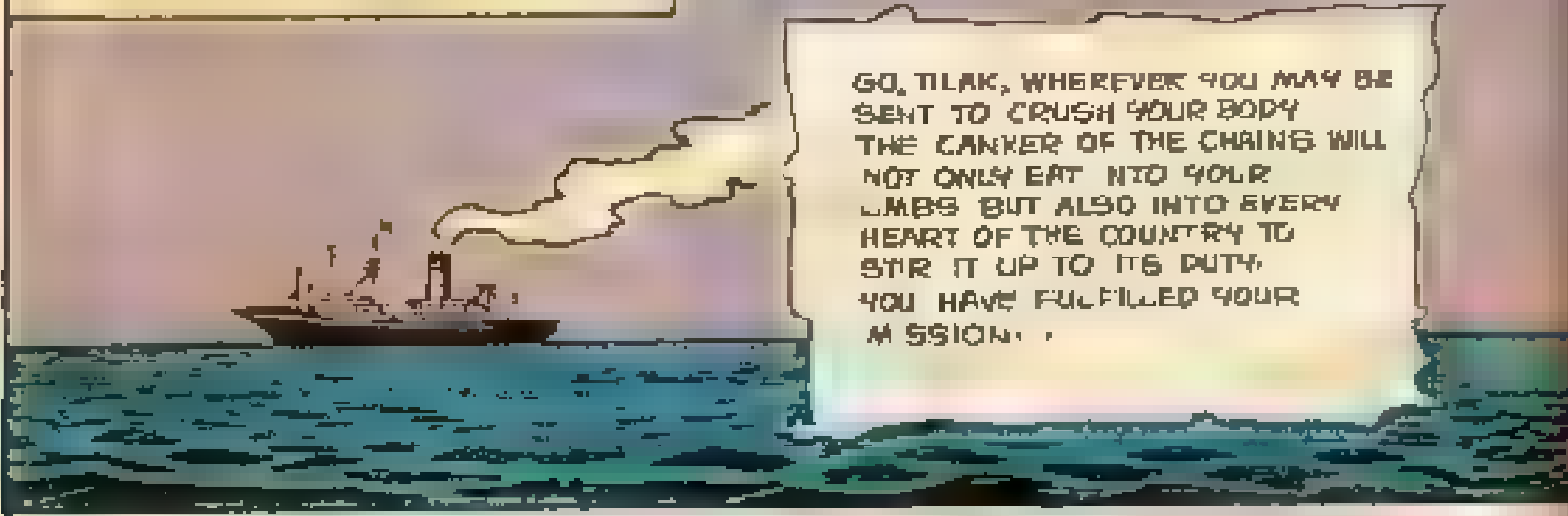
FOR ME IT CAN ONLY BE A MATTER OF A FEW YEARS, BUT FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL ASK YOUR VERDICT AND GET WHETHER YOU HAVE JUDGED RIGHT OR RIGHT THE VERDICT MAY LIKELY BE A MEMORABLE ONE IN THE HISTORY OF THE FREEDOM OF THE INDIAN PRESS



TILAK WAS SENTENCED TO SIX YEARS' DEPORTATION. ON THE DAY THE JUDGEMENT WAS ANNOUNCED, MILL WORKERS IN BOMBAY DECIDED TO STRIKE WORK. THE STRIKE LASTED FOR SIX DAYS.



TILAK WAS DEPORTED TO MANDALAY. "VANDE MATARAM" WROTE:



GO, TILAK, WHEREVER YOU MAY BE SENT TO CRUSH YOUR BODY THE CANKER OF THE CHAINS WILL NOT ONLY EAT INTO YOUR LIMBS BUT ALSO INTO EVERY HEART OF THE COUNTRY TO STIR IT UP TO ITS DUTY. YOU HAVE FULFILLED YOUR MISSION.

SIMILARLY THREE REVOLUTIONARIES OF BENGAL WERE DEPORTED BUT THE REVOLUTIONARIES BE TRAYED NO FEAR WHEN ULLASKAR DUTTA ON TRIAL FOR LIFE BROKE OUT INTO A PATRIOTIC SONG THE WHOLE COURT STOOD UP IN HIS HONOUR.



BLESSED IS MY BIRTH, THAT I AM BORN IN THIS LAND, BLESSED IS MY LIFE, FOR I LOVE YOU, O MY MOTHERLAND.

ANOTHER REVOLUTIONARY HEMACHANDRA LEFT FOR THE ANDAMAN ISLANDS WITH A SMILE ON HIS FACE.



HOWEVER, THE SWADESHI MOVEMENT GRADUALLY LOST ITS VISOUR. IN JUNE 1909 SURJYENDRO STEPPED OUT OF THE PRISON...



... AND DRIBBLED FOR A WHILE. ONLY SILENCE GREETED HIM.

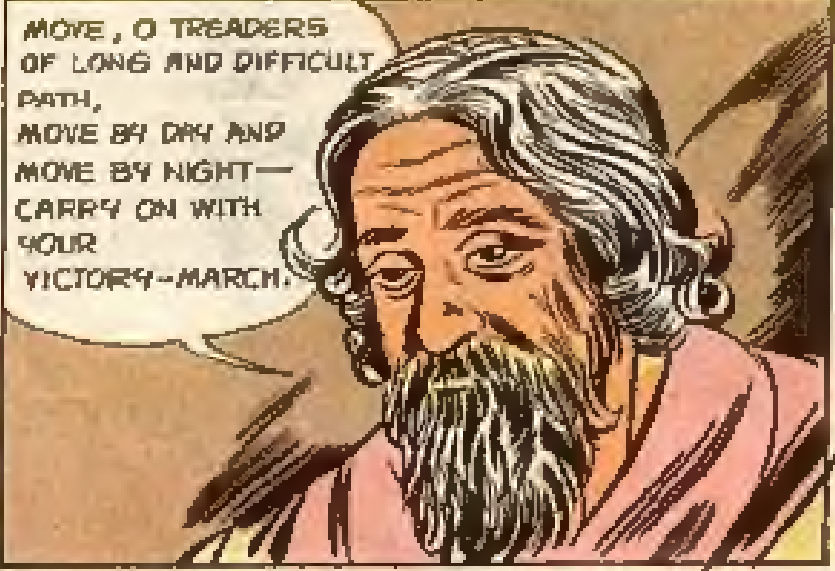


LATER HE SAID —

WHEN I WENT INTO JAIL THE WHOLE COUNTRY WAS ALIVE WITH THE CRY OF 'BANDE MATARAM'... WHEN I CAME OUT OF JAIL I LISTENED FOR THE CRY BUT THERE WAS INSTEAD, SILENCE.



OF COURSE THE SWADESHI MOVEMENT DID ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVE WHEN LORD HARDINGE, THE NEW VICEROY, REVOKED PARTITION ON ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE. THE SPIRIT OF SWADESHI AND BOYCOTT WOULD LATER BE REVIVED BY MAHATMA GANDHI. MEANWHILE POET RABINDRANATH URGED —



MOVE, O TREASURES OF LONG AND DIFFICULT PATH, MOVE BY DAY AND MOVE BY NIGHT — CARRY ON WITH YOUR VICTORY-MARCH.

The Swadeshi Enterprise

The discovery of the steam engine which could haul railway carriages and run textile looms, marked the beginning of the Industrial Revolution in Europe in the eighteenth century. The British killed indigenous industry in India so that their manufacturers could find a ready market in our country. And they tried their best to keep India industrially backward and dependent on European countries for its requirements. However, in spite of their best efforts to keep India off the map of the industrial world, an industrial revolution, on a much smaller scale no doubt, did take place in 1905. If it was the power of steam that launched the Industrial Revolution in Europe, it was the power of swadeshi which launched it in India.



Long before the swadeshi movement was launched, our leaders like Romesh Chandra Dutt had been advocating swadeshi enterprise. Kishorilal Mukherji started the Sibpur Iron Works in 1867, and in the same year, a Hindu Mela was held in Calcutta to exhibit and sell swadeshi crafts. In 1893 Profulla Chandra Ray started his company Bengal Chemicals. Later, he said, "Our educated young men, the moment they came out of their colleges were on the look out for a situation or a soft job under the Government, or failing that in a European mercantile firm. The professions were becoming overcrowded. A few came out of the engineering college, but they too were helpless seekers after jobs. . . . What to do with all these young men? How to bring bread to the mouths of the ill-fed, famished young men of the middle classes?"

Profulla Chandra Ray made a beginning by providing jobs for educated youth when he launched Bengal Chemicals. And a few mills which produced cotton yarn were functioning in Ahmedabad and Bombay long before 1905.

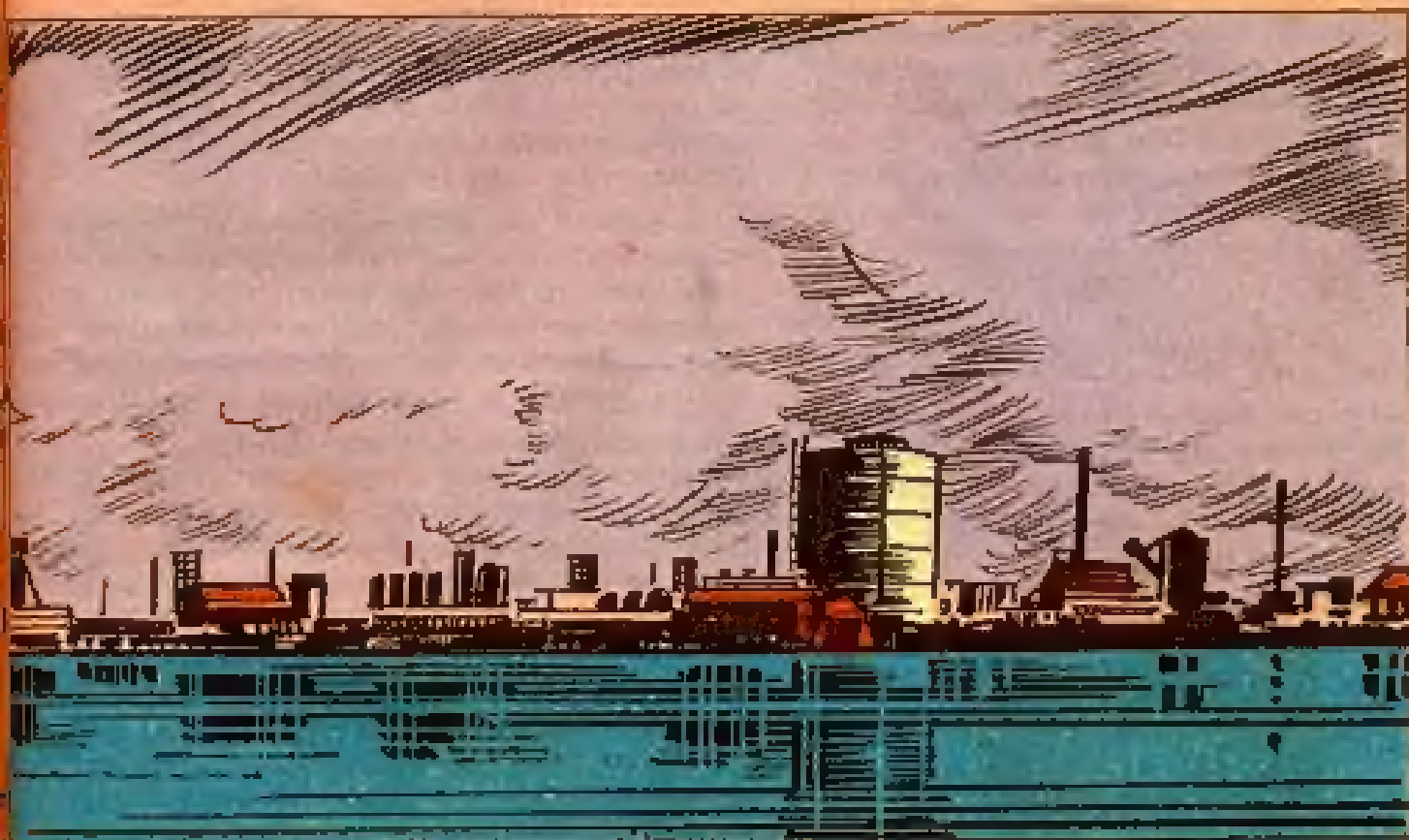
The swadeshi movement came as a shot in the arm for swadeshi enterprise. Our countrymen were convinced that they should patronise swadeshi goods in preference to foreign goods, even if they were more expensive and of inferior quality. With the boycott of foreign goods, there was a spurt in the demand for swadeshi goods, and with ideas, money and enthusiasm, rose to the occasion. A chain of swadeshi emporiums started marketing swadeshi goods. There was a great demand for the mill yarn of Bombay and Ahmedabad. Brass and bell-metal utensils edged out those made of imported enamelled metals.

In the war of ribs, swadeshi ribs emerged victorious. Swadeshi teacups, saucers, tea-pots, inkpots and dolls, not only captured hearts and purses of our countrymen, they also entered the foreign market. When the mind was full of swadeshi thoughts, could

the body be cleansed with foreign soap? No. So foreign toilet soaps hastily made way for swadeshi soap. And sacred fires in sanctum sanctorums and the fires in kitchens came to be lit with swadeshi matchsticks. Even smokers chose to 'burn' swadeshi cigarettes! Paper, candles, sugar, bicycles began to be manufactured in our country without any support from the foreign government. Our entrepreneurs also entered the field of banking and insurance.

government, all combined to bring pressure on swadeshi enterprise. Many of these enterprises died. A few survived. Despite heavy odds, new indigenous companies did surface. One such was the Tata Iron & Steel Company in Jamshedpur.

On the political front, the swadeshi movement proved that Indians could fight injustice. On the economic front, it was proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that Indian scientists, engineers, technologists



But the well-entrenched European companies put up a stiff fight. When Mohamed Kalamian launched the Bengal Steam Navigation Company in 1905, European navigation companies drastically reduced the rate for passengers. Jute mills owned by Europeans refused to buy cargo carried by swadeshi ships! Lack of technical know-how, lack of sufficient capital, stiff and unscrupulous competition from European companies and the apathy of the

and workers were in no way inferior to their counterparts in Europe and America. Yet India remained industrially backward because the British rulers saw to it that it remained so. Our entrepreneurs realized that business and industry could not flourish unless the country became independent. What independence means to industrial growth and prosperity can be judged if we compare the state of our industry under British rule with the progress it has made since independence.

Vivekananda taught Self-Esteem

Swami Vivekananda played a significant role in shaking his countrymen out of their deep slumber and inspired them with the ideals of freedom and liberty. In his whirlwind tour of the country from Kanya Kumari to Kashmir, he took the country by storm and his

countrymen responded to his call—**ARISE! AWAKE! STOP NOT TILL THE GOAL IS REACHED.** Although he attained samadhi in 1902, his words continued to inspire his countrymen and the courage he instilled in their hearts found expression during the swadeshi movement.

Excerpts from Swami Vivekananda's writings:

A cloud of impenetrable darkness has at present equally enveloped us all. Now there is neither firmness of purpose nor boldness of enterprise, neither courage of heart, nor strength of mind, neither aversion to maltreatment by others, nor dislike for slavery, neither love in the heart, nor hope, nor manliness; but what we have in India are only deep-rooted enmity and strong antipathy against one another, morbid desire to ruin by hook or by crook the weak, and dog-like to lick the feet of the strong. Now the highest satisfaction consists in the display of wealth and power, devotion of self-gratification, wisdom in the accumulation of transitory objects; yoga, in

hideous diabolical practices; work, in the slavery of others; civilisation, in base imitation of foreign nations; eloquence, in the use of abusive language; the mark of literature, in extravagant flatteries of the rich or in the diffusion of ghastly obscenities!

... When I see Indians dressed in European apparel and costumes, the thought comes to my mind, perhaps they feel ashamed to own their nationality and kinship with the ignorant, poor, illiterate, downtrodden people of India!

... India! With this mere echoing of others, with this base imitation of others, with this dependence on others, this slavish weakness, this vile detestable cruelty—wouldst thou, with these provisions only, scale the highest pinnacle of civilisation and greatness?... wouldst thou attain, by means of thy disgraceful cowardice, that freedom deserved only by the brave and the heroic? O India! Forget not...

...that the lower classes, the ignorant, the poor, the illiterate, the cobbler, the sweeper, are thy flesh and blood, thy brothers. Thou brave one, be bold, take courage, be proud that thou art an Indian, and proudly proclaim: "I am an Indian, every Indian is my brother." Thou, too, clad with but a rag round thy loins, proudly proclaim at the top of thy voice: "The Indian is my brother, the Indian is my life, India's gods and goddesses are my God, India's society is the cradle of my infancy, pleasure garden of my youth, the sacred heaven, the Varanasi of my old age." Say, brother: "The soil of India is my highest heaven, the good of India is my good," and repeat and pray day and night, "O Thou Lord of Gauri, O Thou Mother of Strength, take away my weakness, take away my unmanliness, and make me a Man!"

